

would be designed to increase awareness of measures that the general public, railroad passengers, and railroad employees can take to increase railroad system security.

(3) The bill authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to make grants to railroads (including Amtrak), hazardous materials shippers, owners of rail cars used in the transportation of hazardous materials, universities, colleges, and research centers, and State and local governments (for railroad facilities and infrastructure) for full or partial reimbursement of costs incurred to prevent or respond to acts of terrorism, sabotage, or other railroad security threats. As examples, these areas can include such steps as securing critical communications, electric power (including traction power), computer, and train control systems essential for secure railroad operations or to continue railroad operations after an attack impacting railroad operations; secure passenger railroad stations, trains, and infrastructure; and all provisions included in the Railroad Transportation Security Directive established by the Transportation Security Administration on May 20, 2004.

The convenience of rail could easily be jeopardized if our security and response solutions are not well planned. We must ensure that attacks like those committed in Madrid in March are prevented but also that proper response training is undertaken to prepare for such an incident.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Thursday, September 23, 2004, the House had rollcall Votes Nos. 469, 470, 471, and 472. Unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all four rollcall votes.

Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Monday, October 4, 2004, the House had rollcall Votes Nos. 487, 488, and 489. Unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three rollcall votes.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents I want to take this opportunity to extend to Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian, and the good people of Taiwan, our congratulations on their National Day.

President Chen is to be commended for his capable and skilled leadership, which is reflected by Taiwan's high standards of living and political reforms.

President Chen is to be further commended for his efforts seeking greater international understanding and harmony in the region. Taiwan and the United States share a long lasting friendship that has extended for over five decades.

Mr. Speaker, on Taiwan's National Day, I join my colleagues in the United States Congress to salute and honor the 23 million citizens of Taiwan. I join with all Americans who take pride in the many accomplishments of the Taiwanese people.

IN MEMORY OF IGNACIO GARCIA OF HOUSTON

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the following obituary was printed in the Houston Chronicle, Thursday September 30, 2004, after the death of a good friend and great Houstonian, Ignacio Garcia.

"Ignacio Garcia was born September 3, 1917, died September 28, 2004. Ignacio immigrated to the United States under the Bracero program and settled in Houston, August of 1959. He worked as an auto mechanic in the near north side of Houston and owned and operated an "Enco" gasoline station at North Main and Pinckney for over fifteen years. He then opened a garage with his son Victor and they worked together until his retirement in the early 1980's. Although officially retired, he was a constant help and source of inspiration and wisdom to his children, grandchildren, and anyone who met him. Ignacio Garcia was a 32-degree Mason and Past Worshipful Master of the Lorenzo De Zavala Masonic Lodge #1397 A.F. & A.M. Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Mary Garcia and his Children and Grandchildren: Victor Garcia and his wife Elsa and Children, Victor Jr., Krista and Sara; Bernardo Garcia and his wife Gloria and children, Bernardo Jr., Adriana and Leia; Ignacio Garcia Jr. and his wife Elena; Rosa Gonzalez and her husband Juan and children Rosalinda, Raquel and Elisa; Adrian Garcia and his wife Monica and daughter, Nina. Mr. Garcia was preceded in death by his son Gilbert Garcia in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, I have personally known Mr. Garcia for many years and our community and his family will miss him.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the people of the Republic of China in celebrating their forthcoming National Day on October 10th. I believe it is appropriate to recognize the substantial political and economic achievements of the Taiwanese people during the last few decades and to highlight the strong and important relationship that continues to grow between the people of Taiwan and the people of the United States.

Taiwan has established itself as a stable and successful Asian democracy in recent decades. The elected representatives at every level of Taiwan's government have successfully confronted the most significant challenge that faces an emerging democracy—the peaceful transition of power from an incumbent leader to a newly elected leader in ac-

cordance with the results of a free, fair, and legitimate election. Additionally, Taiwan boasts a thriving, multi-party democracy in which citizens and elected representatives alike freely debate and discuss the full range of issues that face Taiwan.

Just as the state of democracy in Taiwan has continued to strengthen, so too has the relationship between Taiwan and the United States. The relationship between the United States and Taiwan has grown stronger each year since the passage of the Taiwan Relations Act in 1979. Both nations have an unwavering commitment to democracy and a firm belief in the protection of fundamental human rights. Furthermore, Taiwan and the United States share important economic interests as well. Bilateral trade between Taiwan and the United States exceeded \$65 billion last year, making Taiwan America's eighth largest trading partner. Additionally, last year nearly 30,000 Taiwanese students studied in colleges and universities in the United States; and aside from Asia, the people of Taiwan visit the United States more than any other country—even more evidence of the increasing interconnectivity between the peoples of Taiwan and the United States.

Unfortunately, at a time when Taiwan's political and economic example could most benefit the world community of nations, some countries continue to insist on Taiwan's isolation from that community. Restoration of Taiwan's membership to the United Nations and the World Health Organization would serve as beginning steps toward ending that isolation. As other new democracies emerge, I am convinced that the world could greatly benefit from the counsel of a nation that has recently transformed itself into a democracy as effectively and successfully as Taiwan. As an ally and friend to the United States, Taiwan is a nation of great importance, deserving not only of our recognition but also of our support.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, on Taiwan's National Day, I would like to salute Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bian and the 23 million people of Taiwan for their many and varied accomplishments, and acknowledge the ever-growing bond that exists between Taiwan and the United States.

RONALD REAGAN'S VOICE OF FREEDOM PARK

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend my neighbors in Butler County, Ohio for renaming a park at the former site of the Voice of America's Bethany station "Ronald Reagan's Voice of Freedom Park." This park is enjoyed by Butler County families each and every day, and it has been made all the more special by the fact that it is located on the same spot from where Voice of America broadcasts originated from 1944 to 1994.

In many ways, this "name change" isn't much of a "name change" at all. Ronald Reagan was and in many ways still is the Voice of America.

It's that voice which brought us back from the Vietnam era and the malaise of the 1970s. It's that voice that urged Mr. Gorbachev to

"tear down this wall." And it's that voice that ended the Cold War through his policy of "peace through strength."

So, we're not marking the end of one name for this park and beginning of a new one. Instead, we're celebrating the passage of title from one Cold War messenger of freedom to another. Ronald Reagan recognized what an effective and influential tool the Voice of America was in our battle to end the Cold War. In fact, in 1983 he delivered an address via Voice of America, in which he outlined his vision for long-term negotiations with the Soviet Union. He recognized the vital role Voice of America played in our struggle against the Soviets, and he used it to the advantage of our nation and our fight for freedom.

Last week, another American President—George W. Bush—spoke in that park. He spoke of a different battle—this time against the evils of terrorism—in which we are currently engaged. Just like the Cold War, it will be a long struggle—but one which we know we will win. Why? Because we have the same message of freedom on our side that we did when Reagan and the Voice of America led us to victory against communism. And so that message of freedom and the Voice of America continues, in that park and across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friends back home in Butler County who were involved in the effort to place President Reagan's name on the park. In this year of tributes to a man I know as a hero, I can think of very few higher than this one.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED CHURCH

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the 120th anniversary of the United Church in Walsenburg, Colorado. Through good times and bad the church has stood the test of time, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing the Church and its long tenure of service before this body of Congress and this Nation.

The United Church, a Methodist congregation, was founded in 1884 by miners in Walsenburg. On a plot of land sold to them by the town's namesake for one dollar, the church built its first building. In 1929, the United Church built its current building with funds from its membership, a local bank, and the Methodists' Board of Church Extension. Although the Church struggled to survive during the depression and poor economic times, they were able to pay off all debts by 1944. In 1961, the United Church merged with the Community Congregational Church, and today has a membership of about 80 people.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize the United Church in the year of its 120th anniversary. For over a century it has provided compassion and spiritual guidance to the community, and I am honored to congratulate them on their anniversary before this body of Congress and this nation.

HONORING THE VOLUNTEER MEDICAL SERVICES CORPS OF LOWER MERION AND NARBERTH, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Volunteer Medical Services Corps, VMSC, of Lower Merion and Narberth, Pennsylvania, which is celebrating 60 years of service to their community.

In 1944, during the height of World War II, the residents of Narberth Borough felt it was their duty to provide routine transportation for those involved in the war to and from the ports of Philadelphia. The group quickly became incorporated as the Volunteer Medical Corps of Narberth with the main goal was to provide first aid care to those in need and to facilitate non-emergency transports.

In 1951, the corps leased property from the Borough of Narberth and built a new building that could accommodate their needs and growing business. Since 1951, times have changed and medical services have continued to grow in size and scope, and VMSC of Lower Merion and Narberth has proven itself versatile as it has grown with the times. In the 1960's and 1970's when EMS became a specialty, the State health department and the Lower Merion Police Department recommended that VMSC expand its role and provide all emergency care for Lower Merion Township. VMSC quickly became the provider of emergency medical services not only to Lower Merion Township, but Narberth Borough as well.

In the 1990's, the VMSC again grew considerably thanks to its paid staff and volunteers. The company moved to a new headquarters in Ardmore, Pennsylvania and, during that time, it integrated another ambulance company into its own. In 1999, Pleasant Valley Ambulance was integrated in to VMSC, providing ALS services to the Conshohocken Area. This move also helped to reduce response time and the volunteers were able to provide a more timely service. The integration of Pleasant Valley Ambulance also gave VMSC the ability to bring advanced life-support units to those in need.

In 2002, VMSC founded a bike patrol unit. The bike patrol teams consist of two EMTs or medics who can help reduce responder time in large or crowded medical emergencies. The state-of-the-art equipment includes a full range of cardiac medicine, bandaging and splinting supplies, oxygen, and a defibrillator. The bike patrol is extremely important because the EMTs on bikes have the capability of arriving at the scene of an accident well before an ambulance and they can provide life saving care.

Today, VMSC prides itself on providing high-quality, cost-effective emergency and non-emergency medical transportation services to the ill and injured citizens of Lower Merion and Narberth, Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the Volunteer Medical Services Corps of Lower Merion and Narberth for their commitment to providing quality care, mutual respect, and open communication with their community. It is an honor to recognize an organization that selflessly provides for its

community each day and in turn creates a better quality of life for the citizens of Narberth and Lower Merion Township.

TAIWAN AND THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan has been excluded from the United Nations since 1971 and since then, Taiwan's 23 million people have had no representation in the United Nations. Exclusion of Taiwan is a violation of the United Nations principle of universality.

I, therefore urge my colleagues and friends of Taiwan to support Taiwan's return to the United Nations because Taiwan's political reforms should be recognized by the international community. Taiwan's return to the United Nations will not hinder the eventual reunification of Taiwan with the Chinese mainland as long as such reunification has the approval of the 23 million people of Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Taiwan's ambassador, Dr. David Lee, to Washington. Prior to his Washington assignment, he was Taiwan's premier diplomat in Europe and Taiwan's Political Vice Foreign Minister. I had the pleasure of having Ambassador Lee and his wife at my table during the Congressional Black Caucus' dinner during the Annual Legislative Conference. Ambassador Lee struck me as highly intelligent, poised and well-mannered. My colleagues and I look forward to working with him and his deputies.

Finally Mr. Speaker, my best wishes to Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian for his well-received Inaugural speech on May 20. His conciliatory attitude toward mainland China is most laudatory. President Chen should be recognized for his work towards permanent peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PEGGY LUE REECE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Peggy Lue Reece, a truly amazing woman from Gunnison, Colorado. Peggy Lue spent nearly half a century working to better the Stockgrowers industry. She amassed an impressive record of accomplishments during her tenure, and I am honored to recognize her service before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Peggy Lou Reece began her service in the agriculture industry as Secretary for the Gunnison County Stockgrowers Association in 1963. For the last 41 years, she has held the post under the leadership of 21 presidents. In addition to secretarial duties, Peggy Lue also served as the organization's treasurer. She came from an agricultural family, and brought with her a great passion for the industry. Even in her retirement, Peggy Lue plans to help whenever she is needed.